

REMARKS

Claims 1-13 are pending in this application, and stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Stern et al. (Stern).

As a formal matter, Applicant notes that the Examiner has not returned an initialed Form PTO-1449 indicating that the references submitted with the IDS filed November 28, 2000 have been considered. (It is noted that, one of the references submitted with the IDS, i.e., U.S. Patent No. 4,315,262, is cited by the Examiner in the present Office Action, and therefore, has been considered.) Applicant requests the Examiner to return the initialed Form PTO-1449 with the next Office correspondence.

Applicant also requests the Examiner to indicate approval of the formal drawings filed November 28, 2000.

Applicant amends independent claim 1 more clearly to recite the features of Applicant's invention. Also, Applicant amends claims 4, 5 and 9 to ensure proper antecedent basis. The amendments to claim 1 are merely clarifying amendments, while the amendments to claims 4, 5 and 9 are formalities. Thus, these amendments do not narrow the scope of claims 1, 4, 5 and 9. No estoppel is created.

Applicant respectfully traverses the Examiner's prior art rejection as follows.

Applicant's invention provides a transmit-receive system on board a satellite for a telecommunication system which provides coverage in a region having a plurality of areas including isolated areas where the system receives calls from any one of the areas and transmits


calls to the same area or to another area. Applicant's claimed transmit-receive system comprises a unique combination of features including, *inter alia*:

means for combining signals from said plurality of areas into groups; and

routing means for routing calls from any one of said groups to itself, or to another of said groups,

wherein each group is allocated all of the communication resources of said region. (Applicant's claim 1.)

Stern does not disclose or suggest a system having such a unique combination of features. Stern is directed to "an improved method and apparatus for interconnecting two or more cellular system covering the same geographical area" (Id. col. 2, lines 27-30). In particular, Stern describes interconnected systems 101 and 102 such that:



M-system 101 process all mobile originations and transfers a percentage of the mobile originations to X-system 102 by sending a directed retry message to the originating mobile. The percentage of calls transferred by M-system 101 to X-system 102 can be preselected to provide X-system 102 with a desired traffic load or may be dynamically varied depending on parameters selected by the system operator and the actual traffic load of both systems 101 and 102. Upon receipt of the directed retry message, the originating mobile scans and selects one of the nine access-only channels of base sites 121-124. As a result of this unique operating mode of systems 101 and 102, all incoming traffic from central office 110 is processed by M-system 101 and the outgoing traffic from mobiles is split between them M-system 101 and X-system 102. (Id., col. 5, lines 12-27.)

Nowhere does Stern disclose, teach or suggest that that signals from a plurality of areas covered by either (or both) of its systems, 101 or 102, are combined into groups, let alone disclose or suggest any means for routing calls between groups, as recited in Applicant's claim 1. Instead, Stern simply discloses an interconnection protocol between an M-system and an X-

system covering the same geographic region where all incoming traffic from a central office is processed by the M-system and the outgoing traffic from mobiles is split between the M-system and the X-System (see Id).

Thus, Applicant's independent claim 1 and its dependent claims 2-13 (which incorporate all the novel and unobvious aspects of their base claim) are not anticipated by (i.e., are not readable on) Stern at least for these reasons.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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